

June 3, 2019  
#1 Airport Rd  
Glasgow, MT 59230

Environmental Quality Council  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Fisheries Division  
Region 6 Office  
Montana State Library, Helena  
MT Environmental Information Center  
Hi-Line Sportsmen  
Walleyes Unlimited  
Montana Catfish Association  
Roosevelt Conservation District  
Richland Conservation District  
Valley Conservation District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Helena  
State Historic Preservation Office, Helena  
City of Culbertson  
Roosevelt County

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed is an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the Community Pond Program (CPP). The CPP proposes to provide partial funding to construct a Community Fishing Pond in Culbertson, Montana. This proposal is to construct a pond by excavating a pit and constructing earthen berms to ensure adequate water depths to over-winter fish. This proposal also includes road and parking construction. The pond is located on the western edge of the City of Culbertson, Roosevelt County, Montana.

Please submit any comments by 11:59 pm on July 5, 2019 to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at the address listed above. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dave Fuller at (406) 228-3700. Please note that this draft EA will be considered as final if no substantive comments are received by the deadline listed above.

Sincerely,

Dave Fuller, Fishing Access Site Coordinator  
Region 6 - Glasgow  
Fisheries Division  
e-mail: [dfuller@mt.gov](mailto:dfuller@mt.gov)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
Fisheries Division  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Culbertson Community Fishing Pond

General Purpose: The Community Pond Program (CPP) was developed by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) to enhance fishing opportunities in or near Montana communities. Funding is intended for construction or improvement of public fishing ponds, and preference is given to projects that create or enhance opportunities for youth/family angling and education. Funding is derived from the sale of fishing licenses, and authority for the CPP is provided by the Montana State Legislature.

The CPP and Culbertson Lions Club propose to provide partial funding toward the Construction of the Culbertson Community fishing pond. The pond is designed to be approximately 1.5-acre and is in the City of Culbertson adjacent to a city park complex. The City of Culbertson holds the deed to this property and will accept all liability. Pond construction will be done by the US National Guard. This Environmental Assessment reviews impacts associated with the proposed action; pond construction and construction of a walking trail and parking area adjacent to the pond.

I. Location of Project:

This project will be conducted in the City of Culbertson, located at Township 28N, Range 56E, Section 29, SW1/4 (4814781, -104.52418) in Culbertson, MT in Roosevelt County (Figure 1).

II. Need for the Project:

One goal within FWP Statewide Fisheries Management Plan is to provide opportunities for people to access and enjoy the public waters of the State for fishing and other forms of water-based recreation. This project accomplishes this goal by creating aquatic recreational opportunities in an area with limited pond/lake angling for youth and families, which is a core component of the fisheries management plan.

III. Scope of the Project:

The Culbertson Lions Club and the City of Culbertson are proposing to construct a community fishing pond on the west side of Culbertson, north of the existing swimming pool and park (Figure 1). The pond would be located on property owned by the City of Culbertson. This property was recently deeded to the City from a landowner that requested that a community pond be constructed in Culbertson. The proposed project would involve construction of a 1.5-acre pond with a target depth of 18 feet. The pond will be excavated to a depth of 12 feet deep with bank slopes of 4:1 (287,464 cubic yards) and an additional six-foot berm around the perimeter of the pond (23,000 cubic yards). The pond will be lined with bentonite clay to seal and minimize water loss. In addition, a gravel trail and parking area will be constructed (Figure 2). Initial filling of the pond following construction will be completed with Dry Prairie Rural Water. Following construction and filling, the pond will be maintained by an on-site well.

Contributor	In-kind services	In-kind cash	status
FWP Community Pond Grant		\$12,500	received
Culbertson Lions club		\$12,000	received
Landowner	\$15,000		received
FWP - Project Design	\$3,000		received
National Guard – pond construction	\$30,000		Pending EA

#### IV. Environmental Impact Review Checklist:

#### **Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment**

Project Title: City of Culbertson Community Fishing Pond

Division/Bureau: FWP Fisheries Division / Fish Management Bureau (CPP) / Region 6 Fisheries

Description of Project: The CPP and Lions Club plan to provide partial funding toward the construction of Culbertson Community Fishing Pond. Other contributors will provide in-kind services. The project would develop a new Community Fishing Pond, walking trail, parking area, and signage.

#### **A. POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Provided
1. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture				X		
2. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
3. Water quality, quantity and distribution (surface or groundwater)			X			X
4. Existing water right or reservation			X			X
5. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality			X			X
6. Unique, endangered, or fragile vegetative species				X		
7. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		
8. Unique, endangered, or fragile wildlife or fisheries species				X		
9. Introduction of new species into an area			X			X

10. Changes to abundance or movement of species				X		
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## B. POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Provided
1. Noise and/or electrical effects			X			X
2. Land use			X			
3. Risk and/or health hazards				X		
4. Community impact			X			X
5. Public services/taxes/utilities				X		
6. Potential revenue and/or project maintenance costs			X			X
7. Aesthetics and recreation			X			X
8. Cultural and historic resources				X		
9. Evaluation of significance				X		
10. Generate public controversy				X		

### A. Explanation of Impacts to the Physical Environment

- A3. The Town has two water rights, Claim 40S 1549-00 and Water Reservation 40S 77646-00, both from the Missouri River. Both rights are for “Municipal” purposes which covers a broad expanse of secondary uses. Just as Dry Prairie’s rights could be used to fill the pond so could Culbertson’s.
- A5. Approximately 1.5-acres of dry ground “field” will be converted into a pond. Approximately 8,000 square feet (60’ x 120’) of ground will be disturbed for surfacing of vehicle and pedestrian traffic (road and parking area)
- A9. Fish species that will be stocked in the pond will include but not limited to: Rainbow Trout, Fathead Minnow and Yellow Perch. These species are common in the area and exist in the Missouri River watershed.

### B. Explanation of Impacts to the Human Environment

- B1. There may be short term, local increase in noise associated with heavy equipment use during project construction.

B4,7. A positive community impact (benefit) is anticipated following completion through increased use and visitation in the area, increased revenue for local businesses, and increased recreational opportunity for young anglers.

B6 Following completion of project, the City of Culbertson will be responsible for maintenance of the site.

C. Narrative Evaluation and Comment.

There are no anticipated cumulative negative effects associated with the project. The project will improve outdoor recreational opportunities for the Culbertson community and visitors to the area.

D. Discussion and Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives.

1. No Action Alternative.

Do not complete construction of the proposed community pond.

2. The Proposed Alternative.

There is no other alternative. Various sites to construct a community fishing pond have been assessed and abandoned for various reasons. This site represents the most viable, cost-effective location providing safe and convenient access for young anglers.

E. Environmental Assessment Conclusion Section.

1. Other groups or agencies contacted, or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- MT Department of Transportation
- MT Department of Natural Resources
- MT Department of Environmental Quality
- Richland Conservation District
- WWC Engineering

2. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

None.

3. Is an EIS required?

No. We conclude that the proposed activities will have an overall positive impact on the human environment with very minor impacts to the physical environment. Therefore, an EIS is not required.

4. Level of public involvement.

The proposed project was reviewed and supported by Fish, Wildlife and Parks and has been approved by MFWP Region Six Supervisor. The EA will be distributed to all individuals and groups listed on the cover letter and will be published on the FWP webpage: [www.fwp.mt.gov](http://www.fwp.mt.gov).

5. Duration of comment period; 30 Days

Public comment will be accepted through 11:59 PM, July 5, 2019.

6. Person(s) responsible for preparing the EA.

Steve Dalbey, Region 6 Fisheries Manager  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
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Glasgow, MT 59230  
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Contributors:

- Dave Fuller (Region 6 Fishing Access Site Coordinator)
- Ken Forbregd (Culbertson Lions Club)

Figure 1.





Figure 2.

